

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 SSO-00 AID-05 IO-13 SCCT-01

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R 231154Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5494

INFO /AMEMBASSY AMMAN 3887

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 9953

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT EG

SUBJ: SADAT'S NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS: JULY 22

SUMMARY: ADDRESSING NATION ON NATIONAL DAY EVE,
SADAT PROUDLY RECOUNTED "GLORY" OF PAST 24 YEARS. HE
STRESSED HIS OWN SIX YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP BUT
AVOIDED CRITICISM OF NASSER. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
IS SACRED, BUT MUST NOT BE EXPLOITED. OPEN DOOR MUST
BE MADE TO WORK. DRAMATIC HIGHLIGHT WAS VERBAL ASSAULT
ON "LIBYAN LUNATIC;" SAG WILL ASSIST IN DEFENDING
AGAINST HIM. SYRIANS MUST GET OUT OF LEBANON; "GENOCIDE"
MUST END. ASAD NOT ATTACKED PERSONALLY, EGYPT STANDS
BY PLO WHICH SHOULD UNITE. SOVIETS ESCAPED
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CRITICISM. US POLICY CHANGES IN ME WELCOMED BUT

UNNAMED "CONSPIRATORS" IN LEBANON WARNED OFF AND THERE WAS HINT OF CONCERN THAT US CAMPAIGN SPEECHES MAY INDICATE "ARAB RIGHTS" LESS LIKELY BE SUPPORTED. END SUMMARY

1. ON A HOT SUMMER EVENING IN CAIRO, THE ANNIVERSARY EVE OF JULY 23 REVOLUTION, PRESIDENT SADAT SPOKE TO THE NATION ABOUT THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF PAST 24 YEARS, HIS OWN SIX YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP, AND HIS PRIDE AND CONFIDENCE IN THE "DEEP ROOTED STRENGTH" AND "GLORY" OF EGYPTIAN CULTURE. FOR THE MOST PART AVOIDING RHETORICAL EXCESS, HE SPOKE FOR ALMOST THREE HOURS, ADMITTING PAST MISTAKES, BUT ASKING FOR MORE PRODUCTIVITY AND LESS RANCOR AT HOME, AND FOR ARAB UNITY ABROAD.

2. INTERNAL. FIRST 90 MINUTES DEVOTED LARGELY TO HISTORIC REVIEW: SUBSERVIENCE OF EGYPT BEFORE 1952, "BRILLIANT" PHASE OF INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCE, AND 1971 CORRECTIVE REVOLUTION WHICH CONVERTED REVOLUTIONARY LEGITIMACY TO CONSTITUTIONAL LEGITIMACY, MISTAKES ADMITTED, BUT NO CHASTISEMENT FOR NASSER, "THE MAN WHO LAUNCHED THE REVOLUTION". PRESIDENT MADE EFFECTIVE APPEAL TO YOUTH (MOST EGYPTIANS ARE TOO YOUNG TO REMEMBER PRE-1952 ERA) TO REFLECT THAT THEIR WORLD OF EQUALITY IS CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR FATHERS' SACRIFICE - THEY SHOULD NOT BE BLIND BY "OUTBIDDINGS FROM ABROAD". SINCE 1971, PROBLEMS GREAT, BUT ACHIEVEMENTS GREATER: (A) LIBERATION OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; (B) RECTIFICATION OF REVOLUTIONARY DEVIATION TO RESTORE SOVEREIGNTY OF LAW, INDEPENDENCE OF JUDICIARY, CLOSING OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOREVER; (C) WORLD ACCEPTANCE OF INDEPENDENCE OF EGYPTIAN FREE WILL, (D) REVIEW OF ECONOMIC POLICY. APPLAUSE GREETED PRESIDENT'S REMARK THAT GREATEST OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS HAD BEEN REBUILDING OF THE ARMED FORCES WHICH, HE ALLEGED, BECOMES STRONGER AS EACH DAY PASSES.

3. STERN WARNING WAS ADDRESSED TO THOSE WHO DISRUPT
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PUBLIC PEACE. THOUGH CRITICISM MUST BE OPEN, GOE, PARLIAMENT AND PRESS MUST ENSURE NO EXPLOITATION OF ATMOSPHERE OF FREEDOM. PROGRESS TOWARD FULL PARTY SYSTEM WILL BE DELIBERATE; PORTUGUESE CHAOS IS INSTRUCTIVE. ELECTION CAMPAIGN MUST BE CALM. SUCH ISSUES AS "RIGHT TO STRIKE" AND INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP OF PRESS ARE INAPPROPRIATE FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRY WHERE NATIONAL SECURITY IS TOP PRIORITY.

4. ECONOMY. SADAT FRANKLY ADMITED EGYPT FACES "DIFFICULT ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES". HE LISTED PLETHORA OF PRIORITIES AND OFFERED NO NEW INITIATIVES. HE DID, HOWEVER, GIVE EXPLICIT REITERATION OF OPEN DOOR AND FRANKLY ACKNOWLEDGED BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS IMPEDE IT. HE ALSO ADMITTED VITAL NECESSITY OF AGRICULTURAL REFORM (THROUGH AGRICULTURE) TO CURB HUGE FOOD IMPORTS. CORE OF ECONOMIC REMARKS WAS SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO GENUINELY MAJOR ISSUES: "FIRST AND FOREMOST PROBLEM OF OUR COUNTRY IS PRODUCTION AND MORE PRODUCTION...." PUBLIC SECTOR WILL REMAIN BACKBONE OF EGYPT, BUT PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESSMEN HAVE IMPORTANT ROLE AS WELL --- AS LONG AS THEY PAY THEIR TAXES.

5. ARAB AFFAIRS. SADAT EMPHASIZED THREE POINTS: TRAGEDY OF ARAB DISUNITY, TREACHERY OF "LUNATIC OF LIBYA", AND DEMAND FOR HANDS OFF LEBANON-SYRIANS MUST WITHDRAW.

6. ON LIBYA SADAT DELIVERED DIATRIBE. ARAB WORLD WILL NOT ACCEPT UNETHICAL BEHAVIOR OF "STOOGES" SEEKING DESTROY ARAB WORLD. "OTHER STEPS", ESPECIALLY WITH SAUDIS, WILL FOLLOW-GOES -SUDAN DEFENSE AGREEMENT; NEXT MONTHS WILL WITNESS STRATEGIC MOVES WITH STILL OTHER ARAB STATES TO ENSURE CONSPIRACY NOT REPEATED.

7. ON LEBANON, SADAT LAMENTED CURRENT "GENOCIDE" AGAINST PROGRESSIVES AND PALESTINIANS, SCORED FRANJIYA'S CLAIM OF LEGITIMACY IN MIDST OF CHAOS, AND ASKED IN WHOSE INTEREST SYRIAN MISSILES ARE LOOSED OVER LEBANON. WHILE INSISTING EGYPT WILL NOT SUPPORT

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INVASION OF LEBANON, SYRIAN OR OTHERWISE, SADAT AVOIDED CASTIGATION OF ASAD PERSONALLY, THOUGH HE REJECTED RECENT SARG "JUSTIFICATION" (I.E., ASAD'S JULY 20 SPEECH). SYRIANS MUST WITHDRAW. "I WARN" ISRAEL AND ALL CONSPIRATORS (READ, SYRIA, US) AGAINST PURSUING THIS "DREADFUL PLOT" AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND ARABS. ARABS MUST UNITE TO FACE ISRAEL: TEST OF CAUSE IS APPROACHING -- EITHER PEACE OR ALL OUT WAR. SUPPORT FOR PLO STRONGLY STATED, COUPLED WITH APPEAL FOR PALESTINIAN UNITY AND TO WEST BANK TO CONTINUE OPPOSE OCCUPIERS.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 231154Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5495

INFO /AMEMBASSY AMMAN 3888

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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8. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. SADAT SKIMMED OVER HIGH PRIORITY EGYPT GIVES AFRICAN AFFAIRS (ZIMBABWE, ETC.), NAM (COLOMBO), AND RELATIONS WITH SUPERPOWERS. SOVIETS NO DOUBT PLEASED THAT PRESIDENT ACKNOWLEDGED THEIR SUPPORT ARAB RIGHTS, ADDING MERELY THEY WILL BE TREATED IN ACCORDANCE THEIR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT EGYPTIAN SOVEREIGNTY. US RELATIONS ALSO GOVERNED BY US WILLINGNESS RESPECT EGYPT. US POLICY CHANGES IN ME WELCOMED AS WERE BETTER BILATERAL RELATIONS, THOUGH SADAT "FEELS IMPLICATIONS" NOW MAKING US HESITANT RE SUPPORT OF ARAB RIGHTS. (COMMENT: AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO CERTAIN CAMPAIGN SPEECHES WHICH HAVE WORRIED SADAT AND SENIOR GOE OFFICIALS CONSIDERABLY.)

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9. COMMENT: APPROPRIATELY, BULK OF NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS DEVOTED TO INTERNAL AFFAIRS. EMPHASIS ON SADAT'S PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENTS AGAINST TREMENDOUS OBSTACLES WAS NOT RPT NOT COUPLED WITH SEPCIFIC INVIDIOUS COMPARISONS WITH NASSER, AS HAD BEEN CASE PREVIOUS YEAR. THIS MAY BE CALCULATED TO REPRIVE NASSERIST ELECTION CANDIDATES OF QUOTABLE ANTI-SADAT SLOGANS. WHILE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION WAS CONFIRMED, IMPLICIT WARNING AGAINST GOING TOO FAR WAS CLEAR. FRIEF REMARKS ON ECONOMY, WHILE CONTAINING NOTHING NEW, PROVIDED REASSURING EVIDENCE THAT PRESIDENT DETERMINED PURSUE OPEN DOOR, KNOWS IT IS NOT WORKING WELL, AND IS RESOLVED CONTINUE EFFORTS SWEEP AWAY BUREAUCRATIC AND OTHER IMPEDIMENTS. HE CORRECTLY STRESSED VITAL ISSUES OF IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND REATIONALIZING AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM.

10. HIGH DRAMATIC POINT OF SPEECH WAS FURIOUS ATTACK ON QADHAFI. WE BELIEVE SAUDIS WILL BE SURPRISED TO LEARN THEY HAVE AGREED TO UPCOMING MILITARY "STEPS" TO GIVE "TREMENDOUS GOOST" TO WAR EFFORT AND DEFENSIVE ABILITY. SIGNIFICANTLY, WHILE SADAT STRESSED INADMISSIBILITY OF SYRIAN PRESENCE IN LEBANON, GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS, AND OF INTERNATIONALIZATION OF DISPUTE, HE DID NOT REPLY IN KIND TO ASAD'S ANTI-EGYPTIAN REMARKS ON JULY 20. PRES TOOK SWIPE AT FRANJIYA, BUT DID NOT MENTION CHAMOUN. STRONG SUPPORT FOR PLO WAS COUPLED WITH WHAT SEEMS TO US PUZZLING APPEAL FOR PALESTINIAN UNITY.

11. SOVIETS ESCAPED VIRTUALLY UNSCATHED, THOUGH SOVIET EMBASSY HERE HAD BEEN RATHER NERVOUS ABOUT SPEECH. US ALSO TERATED LARGELY EN PASSANT, EXCEPT FOR NON-SPECIFIC WARNING TO "CONSPIRATORS" AGAINST LEBANON AND CONCERN EXPRESSED ABOUT "INDICATIONS" IN US THAT ARAB RIGHTS LESS LIKELY BE SUPPORTED. LATTER CONCERN HAS ALSO BEEN EPXRESSED TO US BY MFA OFFICIALS (INCLUDING FAHMY), WHO HAVE BEEN READING CAMPAIGN SPEECHES AND PLATFORMS.

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